

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 16-19 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 5-6, 8, 10-12, 16, and 18-20 have been amended. Claims 4, 7, 9, and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. New Claim 21 has been added. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1, 2, 5-6, 8, 10-12, 16, and 18-20 have been accordingly amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are, therefore, respectfully requested.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 17 was rejected on the grounds that this claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter (i.e., a “program”). Claim 17 has been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,809,202 to Gotoh et al. (hereinafter, merely “*Gotoh*”).

V. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4, 6-15, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Gotoh*. Claims 5 and 9 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Gotoh* and U.S. Patent No. 5,276,034 to Miyatake et al. (hereinafter, merely “*Miyatake*”).

VI. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An image signal processor comprising:

... camera operation estimating means comprising:
a movement detecting means for detecting the movement of the
inputted image signal ... ; and
a second memory for storing previously determined movement,
... such that **if the output from the second memory is different
from the movement of the inputted image signal and the output**

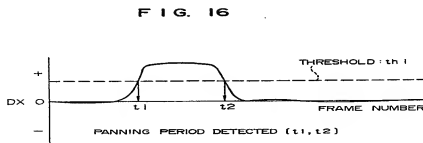
indicates no movement, then the start time of the camera operation is estimated, and, if the output from the second memory is different from the movement of the inputted image signal and the output indicates a movement, then the completion time of the camera operation is estimated.” (Emphasis added)

A. A Camera Operation Estimating Means Having A Second Memory For Storing Previously Determined Movement Such That Based On The Stored Previously Determined Movement The Start Time And/Or The Finish Time Of The Camera Operation Is Estimated Is Not Taught Or Suggested In The Prior Art Used As A Basis Of Rejection

Neither *Gotoh* nor *Miyatake* discloses or suggests “a camera operation estimating means comprising a movement detecting means for detecting the movement of the inputted image signal ... ; and a second memory for storing previously determined movement, ... such that if the output from the second memory is different from the movement of the inputted image signal and the output indicates no movement, then the start time of the camera operation is estimated, and, if the output from the second memory is different from the movement of the inputted image signal and the output indicates a movement, then the completion time of the camera operation is estimated.” as recited in claim 1.

On page 14, lines 6-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that “*Gotoh* does not explicitly disclose that when the output of the second memory is different from said currently determined movement and the output of the second memory has a movement, the camera operation estimating means establishes it to be the completion time of the camera operation.” The Examiner alleges that this deficiency in *Gotoh* is cured by *Miyatake*.

In *Miyatake*, however, Fig. 16 (as illustrated below for the Examiner's convenience) shows how to detect a panning period on the basis of the data (DX) in the motion description table 18 (Fig. 1). In Fig. 16, a horizontal axis denotes frame number and a vertical axis denotes the value of the motion parameter (DX) in the motion description table. In detection of such a panning period as, for example, the camera pans from right to left, there is obtained such a (DX) characteristic diagram swelling toward its plus side as shown in Fig. 16. For the detection of the right-to-left panning period, for example, a positive threshold value ($th1$) is set and such detection is achieved by finding a period exceeding the threshold $th1$. In the example of Fig. 16, the obtained period is $[t1, t2]$ and thus the value $t1$ is written in a panning start frame $s3$ in a column Pan (X) "+" of the camera work description table of Fig. 1. The value $t2$ is written in a panning end frame $e4$ therein. Conversely, in detection of such a panning period as, for example, the camera pans from left to right, there is obtained such a DX characteristic diagram as to swell toward its minus side in Fig. 16. In this case, as in the above case, a negative threshold value ($th1$) is set and a corresponding period is obtained by finding a period smaller than the threshold. In this case, the values of the obtained period are written in panning start frames $s5$ and $e5$ in a column Pan (X) "-" of the camera work description table of Fig. 1.



As described above, in *Miyatake*, frame start and stop times (i.e., t1 and t2) corresponding to the panning operation of the camera are merely determined on the basis of calculated motion parameters (e.g., DX) and threshold values (e.g., th1), and not based on a “stor[ed] previously determined movement ... and the inputted image signal.” *Miyatake*, therefore, fails to disclose or suggest “a camera operation estimating means comprising a movement detecting means for detecting the movement of the inputted image signal ... ; and a second memory for storing previously determined movement, ... such that if the output from the second memory is different from the movement of the inputted image signal and the output indicates no movement, then the start time of the camera operation is estimated, and, if the output of from second memory is different from the movement of the inputted image signal and the output indicates a movement, then the completion time of the camera operation is estimated,” as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable. For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 16, 18, and 19 are also patentable.

VII. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

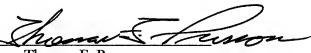
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims remaining in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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